CIDAC 00650
Centro de Documenta TL4113
1986

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UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/872/Add.2
13 August 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 13 August 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee

With reference to aide-mémoire 52/86/Add.2 and 52/86/Add.3, dated 8 and 12 August 1986, respectively, of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples concerning requests from persons to appear before the Special Committee as petitioners to speak about the question of East Timor, I wish to convey the position of my delegation as follows.

The process of decolonization in East Timor has been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia was formalized on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with equal rights and obligations as the other provinces.

In view of the above, my delegation reiterates its view that consideration of the question by the Committee is inappropriate and would constitute interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign Member State. Moreover, any granting of a hearing to any petitioner before the Committee would serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

My delegation, therefore, expresses its strong opposition to the participation of the above-mentioned persons in the deliberations of the Committee as petitioners.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Special Committee.

(Signed) Ali ALATAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative